

Serial No. 09/724,488

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Art Unit: 2665

REMARKS

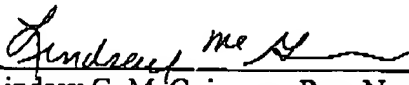
Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalkunte (U.S. 6,470,016) in view of Wilford et al (U.S. 6,687,247). Claims 8, 10 and 12 were indicated as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has kindly indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order only to place the application in condition for allowance, and in now way agreeing with the Examiner's characterization of the claims versus the cited references, Applicant has amended claims 8, 10 and 12 to include the limitations of the parent claims, and accordingly submit that all the remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Lindsay G. McGuinness, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

9/15/2004
Date


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